



ABORIGINAL HEAD START STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

Health Canada supports Indians, Métis and Inuit in their recognition of children as the nation's most valuable resource.

On that premise, the Aboriginal Head Start Initiative sets out to provide comprehensive experiences for Indian, Métis and Inuit children and their families.

It will be based on caring, creativity and pride flowing from the knowledge of their traditional beliefs, within a holistic and safe environment.



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Head Start
Initiative

ABORIGINAL HEAD START INITIATIVE

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Our mission is help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health.

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ABOUT ABORIGINAL HEAD START

The Aboriginal Head Start Initiative is a federally funded early intervention strategy which addresses the needs of young Aboriginal children living in urban centres and in large Northern communities.

It is a comprehensive program designed to meet the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical needs of the child.

Aboriginal Head Start will focus on locally controlled and administered Aboriginal non-profit organizations who see the parent/caregiver as the natural advocate of the child and whose primary concern is the health and well-being of Aboriginal children.



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ABORIGINAL HEAD START MANDATE

The mandate of Aboriginal Head Start is to:

- Foster the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical growth of each child.
- Foster a desire in the child for lifelong learning.
- Support parents and guardians as the prime teachers and caregivers of their children, making sure parents/caregivers play a key role in the planning, development, operation and evaluation of the program.
- Recognize and support extended families in teaching and caring for children.
- Make sure the local Aboriginal community is involved in the planning, development, operation and evaluation of the program.
- Make sure that the initiative works with and is supported by other community programs and services.
- Ensure the human and financial resources are used in the best way possible to produce positive outcomes and experiences for Aboriginal children, parents, families and communities.



PROJECT FEATURES

Each project will focus on preschool children and will include the following components:

- Culture and language
- Education
- Health promotion
- Nutrition
- Social support programs
- Parental involvement

For more information on the Aboriginal Head Start Initiative, contact the Health Canada Office in your area.

